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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 617606

25X6 COUNTRY East Germany / [redacted]

DATE DISTR. 12 April 1954

SUBJECT Planned Illegal Import of Cobalt Oxides to East Germany

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. East Germany for some time has felt a great shortage of cobalt oxides.

2. The Bayerwerk Leverkusen has been aware of this situation for some time and also of the embargo placed on West German exports of cobalt oxides to East Germany.

3. In an apparent effort to circumvent existing embargo regulations Bayerwerk Leverkusen placed a new product on the market which contains 76 percent cobalt oxide rather than the 92 to 94 percent cobalt usually traded. East German import offices hope that by this ruse import difficulties can be overcome.

4. Baesler (fnu) of the firm Baesler & Hanke, a former representative of the ceramics branch of I.G.Farben, is representing Bayer Leverkusen in East Berlin and East Germany. Baesler visited the DIA and DHZ offices on 19 and 20 February 1954 to conclude a contract calling for the import by DIA of low cobalt content oxides. He also stated that Bayerwerk Leverkusen would be in a position to supply this product on liberal credit terms.

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